

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Sixteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3347**

**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives  
Ibarra "Barry" M. Gutierrez III and Walden F. Bello**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Pursuant to Constitutional principle that public office is a public trust, and the corresponding declaration that all public officers and employees are at all times accountable to the people, Section 17, Article XI of 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that every public officer or employee shall submit a declaration under oath of his assets, liabilities, and net worth.

The Philippine legislature enacted Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the *Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act*, on 17 August 1960. It has provisions that require the mandatory disclosure of all public officials and employees of their finances and financial interests and is evidence that, as early as 1960, Congress has already recognized that full transparency on members of the government service is essential against corruption. Even the Supreme Court, in the case of *Morfe vs. Mutuc* (G.R. No. L-20387, 31 January 1968), recognized and held that RA 3019 "was precisely aimed at curtailing and minimizing the opportunities for official corruption and maintaining a standard of honesty in the public service" "intended to further promote morality in public administration."

The disclosure requirements in RA 3019 were superseded by those under Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the *Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*, which laid down the rules on the mandatory filing by all public officials and employees of their annual statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth ("SALN").

The need to clarify the rules on disclosure of the contents of a SALN and the

corresponding right of the people to access it has come to fore in light of the recent exposes on corruption issues. The plunder of public funds by unscrupulous public officers and employees underscores the importance of open and public scrutiny in order to promote honesty and integrity.

This bill will ensure that the administration's *tunay na daan* will be achieved. It is an updated version of House Bill No. 2827 introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives Walden F. Bello and Kaka J. Bag-ao in the Fifteenth Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



IBARRA "BARRY" M. GUTIERREZ III



WALDEN F. BELLO

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. **3347**

---

Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives  
Ibarra “Barry” M. Gutierrez III and Walden F. Bello

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN THE GOVERNMENT**  
**SERVICE BY ENSURING ACCESS TO THE STATEMENT OF ASSETS,**  
**LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH AND THE DISCLOSURE OF BUSINESS**  
**INTERESTS AND FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS FILED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS**  
**AND EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.**  
**6713, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL**  
**STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES,” AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.*

1 **SECTION 1. *Short title.***—This Act shall be known as the “*Silip SALN Act of 2013.*”

2

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of policy.***—Pursuant to Section 17, Article XI and to Sections 27  
4 and 28, Article II of the *1987 Philippine Constitution*, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to  
5 ensure that the public will have access to the Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and  
6 Disclosures of Business Interests and Financial Connections filed by public officials and  
7 employees to the end of promoting transparency and integrity in public service.

8

9 **SECTION 3. *Amendatory provision.***—Section 8(C) of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise

known as the “*Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(C) *Accessibility of documents.*—

(1) Any person shall have the right to inspect, any and all statements filed under this Act: *Provided*, That shall be made available for inspection is made during at reasonable office hours: *Provided, further*, That this right is absolute and may not be denied or restricted for any other reason or on any other ground by the the persons entrusted with the custody of the same as provided in Section 8(A) paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this Act.

(2) Such statements shall be made available for copying or reproduction after ten (10) working days from the time they are filed as required by law.

(3) Any person shall have the right to obtain requesting a copy of a such statements by giving a request, personally, by mail, or electronically, to the persons entrusted with the custody of the same, as enumerated in Section 8(A) paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this Act, and upon shall be required to pay a payment of a reasonable fee to cover the cost of reproduction and mailing of such statement, as well as the cost of certification: *Provided*, That the person so requested shall provide the copy of the statement within five (5) working days from receipt of the request: *Provided, further*, That this right is absolute and may not be denied or restricted for any other reason or on any other ground by the the persons entrusted with the custody of the same as provided in Section 8(A) paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this Act.

(4) Any statement filed under this Act shall be available to the

public for a period of ten (10) years after receipt of the statement.  
After such period, the statement may be destroyed unless needed  
in an ongoing investigation.

(5) The persons entrusted with the custody of the statements  
required to be filed by Section 8(A) paragraphs (1) and (2) of this  
Act shall, within thirty (30) calendar days from the time the  
statements are filed as required by law, upload to their official  
websites a copy of such statements: *Provided, That such shall be  
made available in the website for a period of at least three (3)  
years from the time they are uploaded.*

**SECTION 4. *Repealing clause.***—Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the  
provisions of this Act, particularly those inconsistent provisions of Republic Act No. 6713 (*Code  
of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*) is hereby repealed, modified or  
amended accordingly. Section 8 of RA No. 6713 is amended accordingly.

**SECTION 5. *Separability clause.***—If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this  
Act shall be held unconstitutional, invalid or without any force or effect, other parts or  
provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. *Effectivity clause.***—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the  
completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general  
circulation.

Approved,